

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SS-15 MMO-01 L-03 NSC-05 DODE-00

OMB-01 ACDA-07 SP-02 MC-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 /054 W
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O R 072230Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2397

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 4686

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, ES

SUBJECT: NSSM 243-MAAG REQUIREMENTS STUDY

REF: STATE 249431, SAN SALVADOR 2278, SAN SALVADOR 1978.

1. I HAVE RECENT INDICATION FROM MINISTAR OF DEFENSE THAT A THREE OFFICER SECURITY ASSISTANCE OFFICE WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO EL SALVADOR AT END OF FY 1977 IF MORE INTENSIVE TRAINING PROGRAM WITH MILITARY TRAINING TEAMS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FIELD TEAMS WERE PROVIDED. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, GOES WOULD ONLY TAKE LIMITED NUMBER OF TEAMS, IF ANY, IF ON REIMBURSABLE BASIS, AND WOULD HOPE U.S. WOULD PROVIDE WITHOUT COST.

2. EVEN THOUGH MY PREDECESSOR EXPRESSED AGREEMENT WITH 3-OFFICER TEAM AS OF END FY 76, I WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TIME TO STUDY SITUATION MORE THOROUGHLY, ESPECIALLY THE COST FACTOR AND U.S. NATIONAL INTERESTS SERVED, AND TO AWAIT POLITICAL TRANSITION PROCESS IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1977FY WHICH ADHERENCE OF MILITARY-CONTROLLED GOVERNMENT TO PRINCIPLES OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND EL SALVADOR'S OWN CONSTITUTION WILL

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BE TESTED.

3. WHILE NOT SUGGESTING THIS TO BE MY FINAL RECOMMENDATION, I AM PREPARED AT THIS TIME TO CONCUR WITH THE JCS MANPOWER SURVEY OF AN 8-PERSON MILITARY GROUP THROUGH FY 78 AND THEN WILL PROBABLY RECOMMEND REDUCTION TO 3-OFFICER SECURITY ASSISTANCE OFFICE AT BEGINNING FY 79, ALLOWING ATTRITION IN THAT TIME TO TAKE CARE OF REDUCTION, RESERVING HOWEVER ON A POSSIBLE EARLIER REDUCTION IF OUR STUDY AND EVENTS SHOWN THAT ADVISABLE.

4. I REALIWE THAT WHATEVER IS DONE IN EL SALVADOR WOULD HAVE TO RELATE TO OUR ACTION IN HONDURAS. AS A MATTER OF FACT, ALL CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED TOGETHER AND I AM PROPOSING TO ASST. SECRETARY SHLAUDEMAN SOME MEANS OF CONSULTATION AMONG OUR AMBASSADORS AND MILITARY GROUP COMMANDERS TO STUDY OUR OPTIONS ON A REGIONAL BASIS.

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